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SOURCE Geografiya v Shkole (Geography in School), No 1, 1951.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS
OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

[Map and key are appended.]

During the second half of 1950, the Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography, at a session of the Council of Ministers USSR, presented a wall map of China (scale 1:5,000,000). This map, which has been published recently, reveals changes in the administrative organization of the People's Republic of China.

The most profound democratic and cultural changes are now in progress throughout the entire territory of China. As a result, these changes are being reflected on the administrative set up of the entire country.

A strong Central People's Government has been created and is now being further strengthened. The People's Political Consultative Conference, which elects the Central People's Government Council, is the highest organ of government control. The following are subordinate to the council, the chairman of which is Mao Tse-tung:

People's Procurator General's Office
 Supreme People's Court
 People's Revolutionary Military Council
 Government Administration Council

The Government Administration Council is the central organ of executive authority, to which the commissions and ministries are subordinate.

The People's government, after reviewing the former administrative organization of the country, has now introduced important changes in this administrative division of the government. On the one hand, groups of provinces are being united under the general control of the provincial people's governments,

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which are subordinate to the Central People's Government in Peiping. On the other hand, several provinces are being subdivided, especially those provinces whose economic structure is radically different. For example, where the population consisted mainly of Mongol nomads, certain districts of such provinces as Chahar and Jehol were detached and incorporated into Inner Mongolia.

At present, the People's Republic of China, in regard to its political and administrative organization, has been divided into 12 areas. However, it is impossible to consider this division as firmly established, especially in the southern and western areas of the country. Additional changes on the administrative map of China probably will be executed, in accordance with the realization of future democratic reforms.

The recently reorganized administrative areas of China are listed as follows:

1. North China, including the provinces:

Chahar
Hopeh
Shansi
Pingyuan (recently formed)

2. Northeast China (Manchuria), including the provinces:

Heilungkiang
Kirin
Liaosi
Liaotung
Sungkiang
Jehol

3. Inner Mongolia

4. Suiyuan

5. East China, including the provinces:

Shantung
Kiangsu
Anhwei
Chekiang
Fukien

6. Central China, including the provinces:

Honan
Hupeh
Hunan
Kiangsi

7. South China, including the provinces:

Kwangsi
Kwangtung plus the island of Hainan

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8. Szechwan, this province, with its population of 60-65 million people, has been divided into four parts:

Northwest
Southwest
Northeast
Southeast

9. Southwest China including the provinces:

Sikang
Yunnan
Kweichow

10. Northwest China, including the provinces:

Sinkiang (granted widespread autonomy)
Tsinghai
Kansu
Ningsia
Shensi

11. Tibet

12. Taiwan

The last two areas of the People's Republic have yet to be liberated.

Although this new political-administrative division obviously is far from complete, it does attest to the fact that the People's Republic of China intends: (1) to complete the liquidation of feudalism throughout the country; (2) to strengthen the control of the Central government; (3) to strengthen the solidarity of the nation; (4) to create a united, independent, strong, democratic China; and (5) to pay greater attention to the interests of China as a whole, and the national minorities in particular. In this regard, the Mongol people have received broad autonomy. The special Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region has been formed. The non-Chinese peoples of Sinkiang have been accorded autonomy. Autonomous rights are being offered to Tibet, whose liberation has already begun. Furthermore, Tibetans living in Southwest China have already received the right of access to the local organs of government control. For example, Tibetans constitute more than half of all the members of the Military and Administrative Committee in K'angting, the capital of Sikang Province.

The present political situation in China is causing considerable diversity in the social and economic conditions of the remote areas of the country. These differences are primarily connected with the original "geographic reforms" within China. Particularly noteworthy are the differences in the Chinese village. For example, in some areas (Northeast) during 1946-47, the implementation of land reforms brought about an almost complete liquidation of feudalism. In other areas (North China), land reforms were introduced later, for the most part in 1949; in still other areas (Central and South China), land reforms are just being introduced. In certain areas, China is still engaged in the policy of restricting landowners and usurers. These differences have been reflected in the political-administrative division of new China.

The most substantial changes of administrative boundaries occurred in North and Northeast China, where antifeudal reforms have been completed for the most part. On the other hand, only slight changes have occurred in South and Southwest China, where the liquidation of feudal elements has just begun.

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Noteworthy differences exist in government control over various areas of China, depending on the degree of implementation of democratic changes. For example, the north and northeast areas are controlled by local governments (Administrative Councils), while the southern and western areas of the country are controlled by Military and Administrative Committees. In other words, locally elected organs of the People's Democratic government function in those areas, where the liquidation of feudal elements has already been accomplished. Where these changes are just being introduced, control is still in the hands of the appointed Military and Administrative Committees of the Central People's Government.

Key to Map of New Administrative Divisions
of People's Republic of China

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. North China | ◎ Capital |
| 2. Northeast China | ⊙ Regional center |
| 3. Inner Mongolia | ⊙ Provincial center |
| 4. Suiyuan | ○ Other cities |
| 5. East China | ----- National boundaries |
| 6. Central China | —— Regional boundaries |
| 7. South China | —— Provincial boundaries (new) |
| 8. Szechwan | Provincial boundaries (old) |
| 9. Southwest China | —— Railroads |
| 10. Northwest China | |
| 11. Tibet | |
| 12. Taiwan | |

[Appended map follows.]

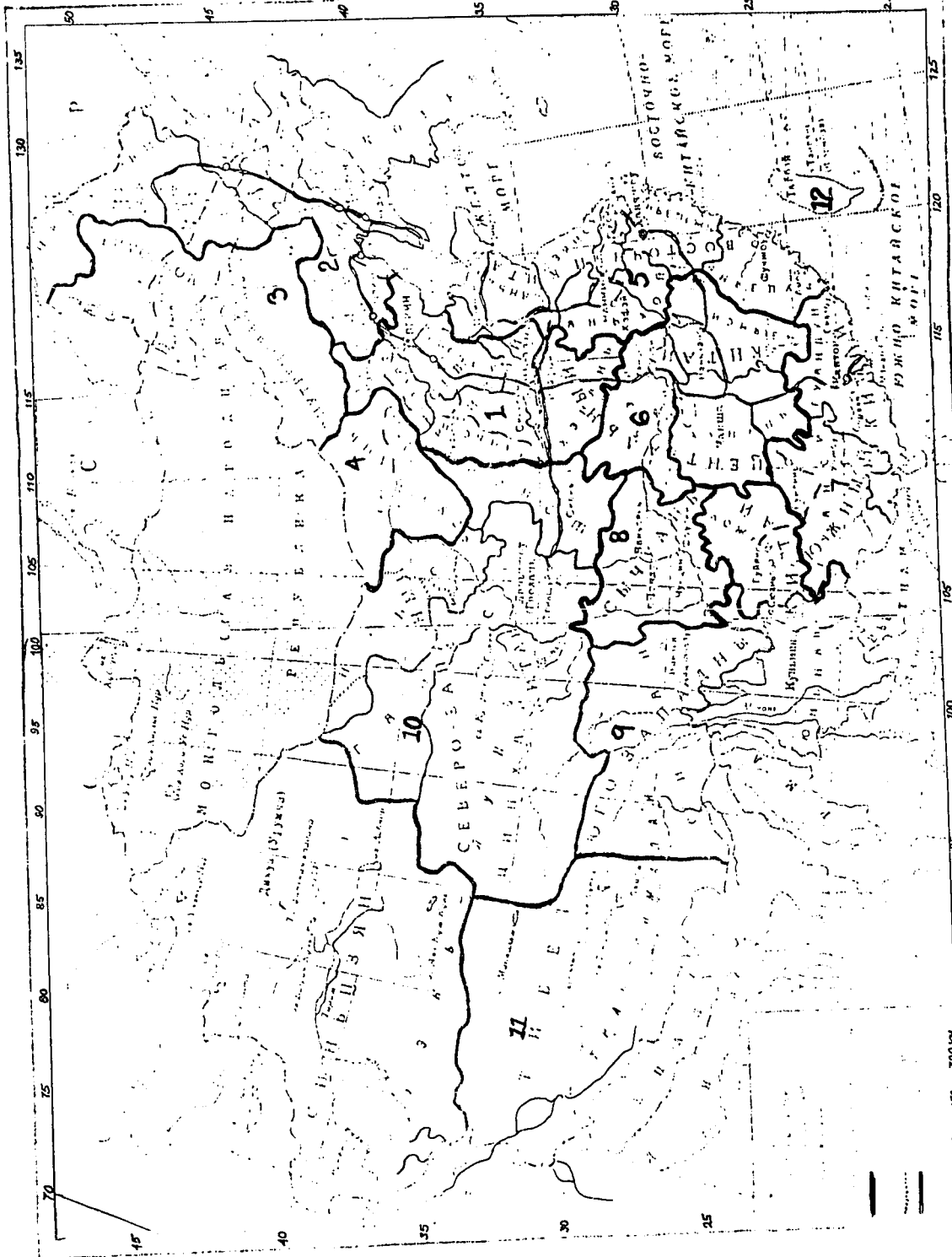
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